



**DATE:** January 14, 2015

**TO:** Washington State Board of Health Members

**FROM:** Diana Yu, Board Member

**SUBJECT:** HEARING: UPDATING REFERENCES TO COMMUNICABLE DISEASE  
MANUAL (WAC 246-100-021, 246-100-036, WAC 246-138-030 AND WAC 246-215-02245)

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### Background and Summary:

The Washington State Board of Health has authority under RCW 43.20.050 to adopt rules for the control of communicable disease. At the last Board of Health meeting, the board directed staff to prepare updates to the board's communicable disease rule to assure references to communicable disease guidance is up to date. Staff identified four outdated references in Title 246 WAC. The proposed rule replaces the various versions of the *Control of Communicable Diseases Manual*, published by the American Public Health Association with references to the most current 20<sup>th</sup> edition of this manual. In addition, board members also requested the proposed rule clarify the board's intent to encourage local health jurisdictions to establish interagency agreements in advance of health emergencies so that disease control measures may be more easily and uniformly implemented.

These updates were made using an abbreviated rulemaking process in accordance with Chapter 34.05 RCW, the Administrative Procedures Act. These revisions provide clarification and reference updates only with no substantive changes to the effect of these rules. The board received no negative public comments on the proposed update. There were two minor edits identified. One recommended edit would strike the word "the" prior to "20<sup>th</sup> edition", a second edit changed the word "disease" to "diseases" to accurately reflect the title of the manual. One additional comment suggested a more significant change to WAC 246-100-021 that would highlight the unique epidemiology of Rabies in Washington state. The referenced *Control of Communicable Diseases Manual* is a publication of global application, the distribution of rabies in animal populations in Washington is unique, in order to assure appropriate treatment for potential rabies exposure it is important for health care providers to consult with local health officials who have access to accurate information needed to evaluate rabies risk associated with the details of a potential exposure. This comment recommends rewriting WAC 246-100-021(3) to refocus the paragraph on rabies prevention not "bite wound treatment" and strongly point to the need to understand Washington's unique rabies epidemiology for making appropriate treatment decisions. This comment recommends a change that is beyond the scope of the rule making authority for this rule revision. Incorporating this comment in the rule requires further board action.

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In our efforts to correct all references to this manual we inadvertently included the Good Samaritan Rule (chapter 246-138 WAC) in this rule proposal. These rules fall under the Department of Health's authority. For this reason, WAC 246-138-030 cannot be amended by the board.

**Recommended Board Action:**

The Board may wish to consider the following motions:

*The Board adopts the proposed updates to reference the Control of Communicable Diseases Manual, 20<sup>th</sup> edition in WAC 246-100-021, WAC 246-100-036 and WAC 246-215-02245.*

*The Board recommends the Department of Health adopt the same update for WAC 246-138-030 to assure consistency throughout Title 246 WAC.*

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